

Appln. No. 09/624,239
Amdt. dated March 22, 2006
Reply to Office Action of September 22, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

A Petition for a Three- month Extension of Time is enclosed under separate cover on today's date.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-7, 10-17, 22-31 48 and 49 under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious with respect to Walker in view of Dulman, and has rejected claims 8-10, 18-21, and 32-47 under 35 USC 103 (a) as being obvious with respect to Walker in view of Dulman and Douik.

Applicant has amended claims 1, 6, 12-17, 21, 24, 25, 30, 37-41, 45-49. Claims 9-11, 36 have been cancelled. Amendments have been made to the independent claims to define aspects of the invention more clearly to distinguish patentably over the cited references. Amendments have been made to the dependent claims to ensure consistency of terminology and to adjust dependencies wherever applicable.

Claim 1 now recites:

A method of annunciating problems in a system, comprising
receiving information from network components, said information representative of system conditions, and including alarm information associated with system fault events, performance degradation information, and service violation information,
correlating alarm information with performance degradation information and service violation information to provide identification of system problems, and to quantify said alarm information, performance degradation information and service violation information associated with said identified system problems, to produce problem priority information for said identified system problems; and
producing signals for concurrently annunciating said system problems and said problem priority information associated with said system problems, and for annunciating at least one of alarm information, performance degradation information and service violation information associated with said system problems.

Thus Claim 1, as amended, incorporates elements of original claims 9, 10, and 11 relating to receiving and correlating information representative of system conditions including alarm information associated with system fault events, performance degradation information,

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and service violation information. Also, the step of correlating alarm information has been amended to recite that the correlation provides identification of system problems, and to quantify said alarm information, performance degradation information and service violation information.

Other independent claims 21, 24, 25 and 45 to 49 for methods, systems and other aspects of the invention have also been amended along similar lines.

As described in the present application, at page 4, line 17 to 20, an apparatus and method is provided for correlation of performance degradation information, service violation information and alarm information with a particular system problem. Page 15, lines 5 to 14 refers in more detail to a specific embodiment, "... when an alarm data is received... any existing or subsequently received service level violation data units or performance degradation data units...may be correlated with received alarm data units " In one specific embodiment, for example, as shown in Figure 10, generating a problem record comprising a problem identification (ID), and associated information.

System problems are annunciated by producing signals, e.g. for a visual display, for concurrently indicating a plurality of system problems and problem priority information associated with the system problems based on correlating and quantifying data representing system conditions i.e. alarm information, service violation information, and performance degradation information. User selection may enable the latter information to be selectively displayed, as represented for example in embodiments of exemplary screen shots of a graphical user interface shown in Figures 2, 3, and 4.

Thus the apparatus and method described in the present application provide for identifying and prioritizing problems in a system, and annunciating concurrently problems, problem priority information, for example in a visual display. The system and method also provides for displaying selected information associated with a problem.

The applicants therefore believe none of the cited references taken alone or in combination provide all features now defined in amended claim 1, which includes features of original claims 1, 9 10 and 11, in combination with further clarification of the method steps for identifying system problems and producing priority information associated with said problems.

In particular, as the examiner states, Walker provides a scheduling system, i.e. a system for optimizing utilization of resources, i.e. technicians, for repair of system problems based on prioritization of jobs and resources. Walker is addressing a different aspect of fault

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management from the invention described and claimed in amended claims in the present application and does not solve the problems addressed by the current invention.

While Walker refers in col 6, line 13 to reviewing alarms from fault monitoring system, Walker does not provide for the step "receiving information from network components, said information representative of system conditions, and including alarm information associated with system fault events, performance degradation information, and service violation information,"

Nor does Walker provide for "correlating alarm information with performance degradation information and service violation information to provide **Identification** of system problems, and **quantification** of said alarm information, performance degradation information and service violation information associated with said identified system problems, to produce problem priority information for said identified system problems.

Furthermore, as stated by the examiner, Walker does not provide the step of producing signals for **concurrently annunciating** said system problems and said problem priority information associated with said system problems, and for annunciating information from at least one of alarm information, performance degradation information and service violation information associated with said system problems.

Walker is concerned with scheduling technicians for repair and maintenance and consequently Walker does not provide any teaching on receiving information indicative of network conditions and correlating alarm information, performance degradation information and service violation information as defined in claim 1 ... for annunciation of system problems and problem priority information.

Walker relies on associating other information with already identified problems to determine priorities for scheduling of technicians to make repairs.

In arguing that Walker does not explicitly disclose concurrently annunciating said system signals, the Examiner cites Dulman as providing full-featured concurrent display of priority and problem information and argues it would therefore be obvious to combine Walker and Dulman. Dulman does not provide concurrent display of system problems and problem priority. Even if Walker were combined Dulman, and it were argued that Dulman provided an appropriate visual display, Dulman does not remedy the other deficiencies of Walker, because Dulman does not provide for **correlation** of service violation or network performance information with alarm information to identify system problems, **quantifying** said alarm information, performance degradation information and service violation information associated

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with said identified system problems, to produce problem priority information for said identified system problems.

With respect to rejections as applied to original claims 8, 9, and 10, over Walker in view of Dulman and Douik, aspects or which are now included in amended claim 1, the Examiner argues that Douik provides a fully functional display for large amounts of QoS, alarm and technical data to a use and argues it would have been obvious to use the display mechanism of Douik which shows not only the prioritized tasks but also user selected data in an easy to use hierarchy.

Not only do Walker, Dulman and Douik address different aspects of fault management, while Walker, Dulman and Douik refer to many types of alarm information, performance degradation information, and service violation, and functional displays, none of these references alone or in combination provide any teaching of the specific combination of elements now defined in amended claims 1.

While Douik provides an enhanced display mechanism for large amounts of data, Douik does not provide teaching on correlating information as described in the present application at page 4, lines 17 to 20, nor quantifying said information to produce problem priority information, as defined in amended claim 1. More particularly, Douik does not provide any reference to a method of correlating data units as described on page 15, lines 5 to 14 with reference to figures 9, 10 and 11, and as defined in dependent claims 12 to 15.

Consequently, the applicants believe that amended claim 1 now defines a combination of features that patentably distinguish over the cited art whether taken alone or in combination. Furthermore, additional feature in claims 12 to 15 further define aspects of the correlation of data units which are not disclosed in any way in any of Walker, Dulman or Douik.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 USC 103(a) be withdrawn. Applicant has amended independent claims 21, 24, 25 and 45 to 49 along the same lines as claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant re-iterates the arguments presented above with respect to claim 1 and applies them to each of claims 21, 24, 25 and 45 to 49. In view of the arguments and amendments, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 21, 24, 25 and 45 to 49 be withdrawn.

All remaining claims depend, either directly or indirectly from one of the independent claims, and as such include all the limitations of the independent claim from which they depend. Accordingly, in view of the arguments presented above with respect to the independent claims, Applicant submits that all claims remaining pending in the application are

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patentable in view of the cited references, and requests that the rejection of these claims under 35 USC 103(a) be withdrawn.

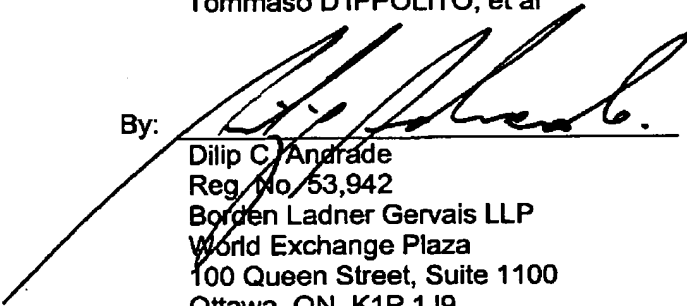
A request for a 3-month extension of time is being submitted by the Applicant to accompany this submission. If a further fee is due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 501593, in the name of Borden Ladner Gervais LLP.

Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance, and favorable action to that end is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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